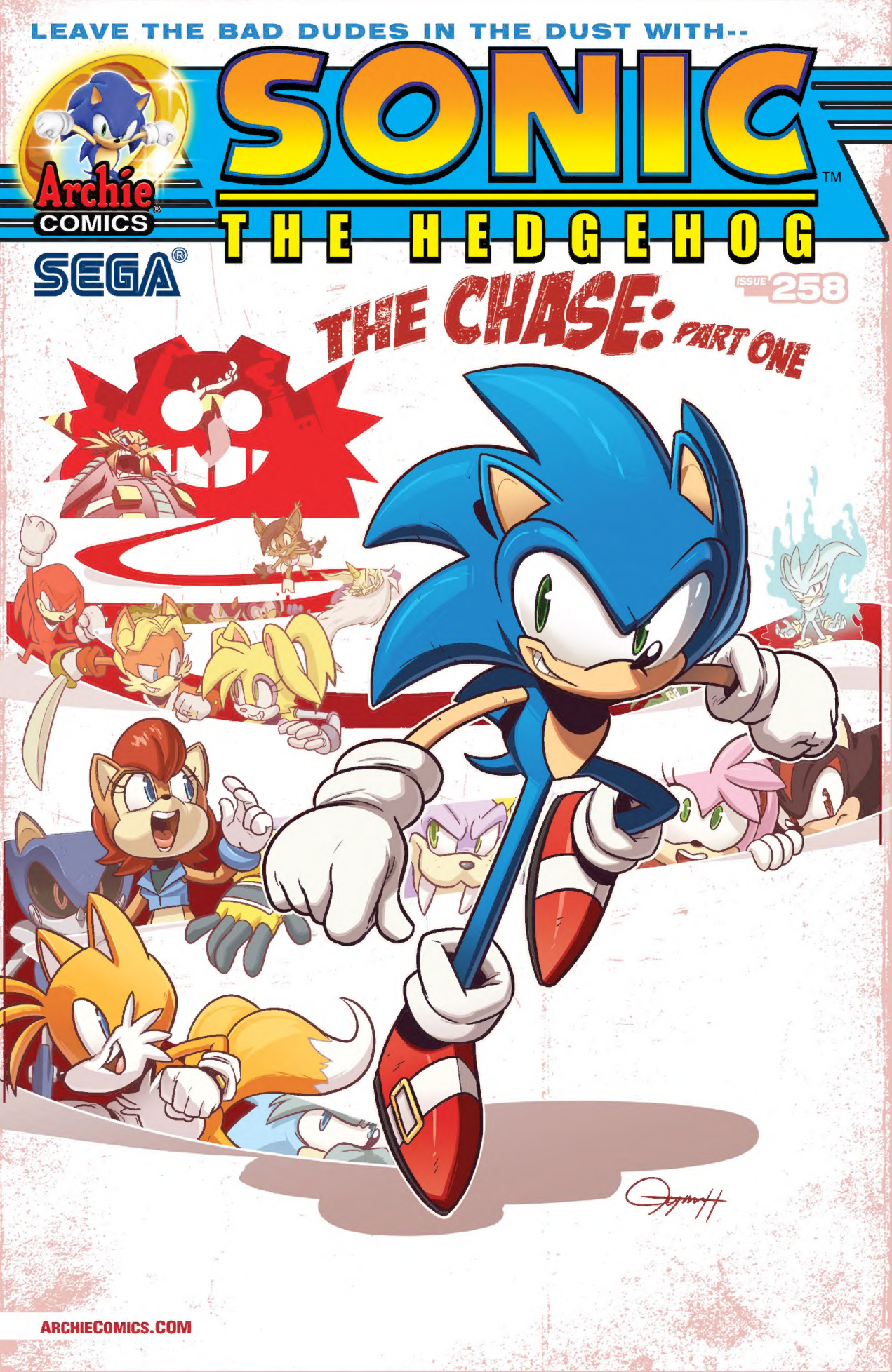
LEAVE THE BAD DUDES IN THE DUST WITH--



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PREVIOUSLY...

PROFESSORS IN A PICKLE!

Sonic the Hedgehog and his heroic Freedom Fighter friends have saved the world countless times over. Now they might be out of their league.

Thanks to a short-sighted and spiteful attack by Dr. Eggman, reality has been irreversibly changed. The chaotic energies at play pushed the world to the breaking point – and beyond!

The torn planet has mysteriously stabilized, with the broken pieces floating around the core of Sonic's world. Dr. Eggman researched the strange phenomena, which lead him to Prof. Pickle, the man who may hold the key to the planet's survival.

Wanting to gain the upper hand in his world conquest, Dr. Eggman kidnapped Prof. Pickle and anyone involved with his research, including the Freedom Fighters' ally: Chuck! **It's up to Sonic and friends to free the professors before it's too late!**

The chase is on...

WHO'S WHO

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
WORLD HERO

PRINCESS SALLY ACORN
LEADER OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

PROFS. PICKLE & CHUCK
PRECIOUS CARGO

???

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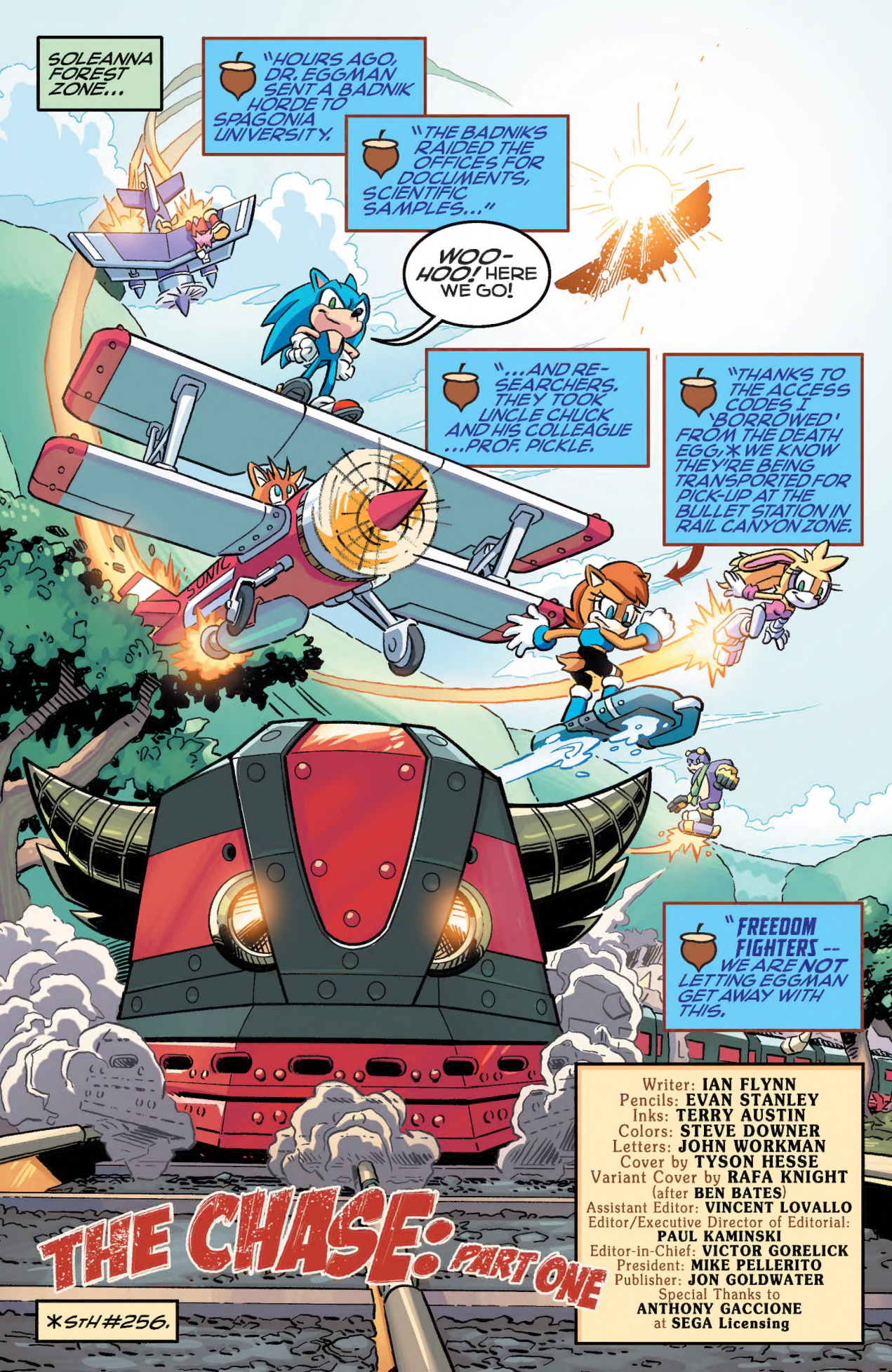
SOLEANNA FOREST ZONE...
"HOURS AGO, DR. EGGMAN SENT A BADNIK HORDE TO SPAGONIA UNIVERSITY.
"THE BADNIKS RAIDED THE OFFICES FOR DOCUMENTS, SCIENTIFIC SAMPLES..."
WOO-HOO! HERE WE GO!
"...AND RE-SEARCHERS. THEY TOOK UNCLE CHUCK AND HIS COLLEAGUE ...PROF. PICKLE.
"THANKS TO THE ACCESS CODES I 'BORROWED' FROM THE DEATH EGG,* WE KNOW THEY'RE BEING TRANSPORTED FOR PICK-UP AT THE BULLET STATION IN RAIL CANYON ZONE.
"FREEDOM FIGHTERS -- WE ARE NOT LETTING EGGMAN GET AWAY WITH THIS.
THE CHASE: PART ONE
*STH #256.
Writer: IAN FLYNN
Pencils: EVAN STANLEY
Inks: TERRY AUSTIN
Colors: STEVE DOWNER
Letters: JOHN WORKMAN
Cover by TYSON HESSE
Variant Cover by RAFA KNIGHT
(after BEN BATES)
Assistant Editor: VINCENT LOVALLO
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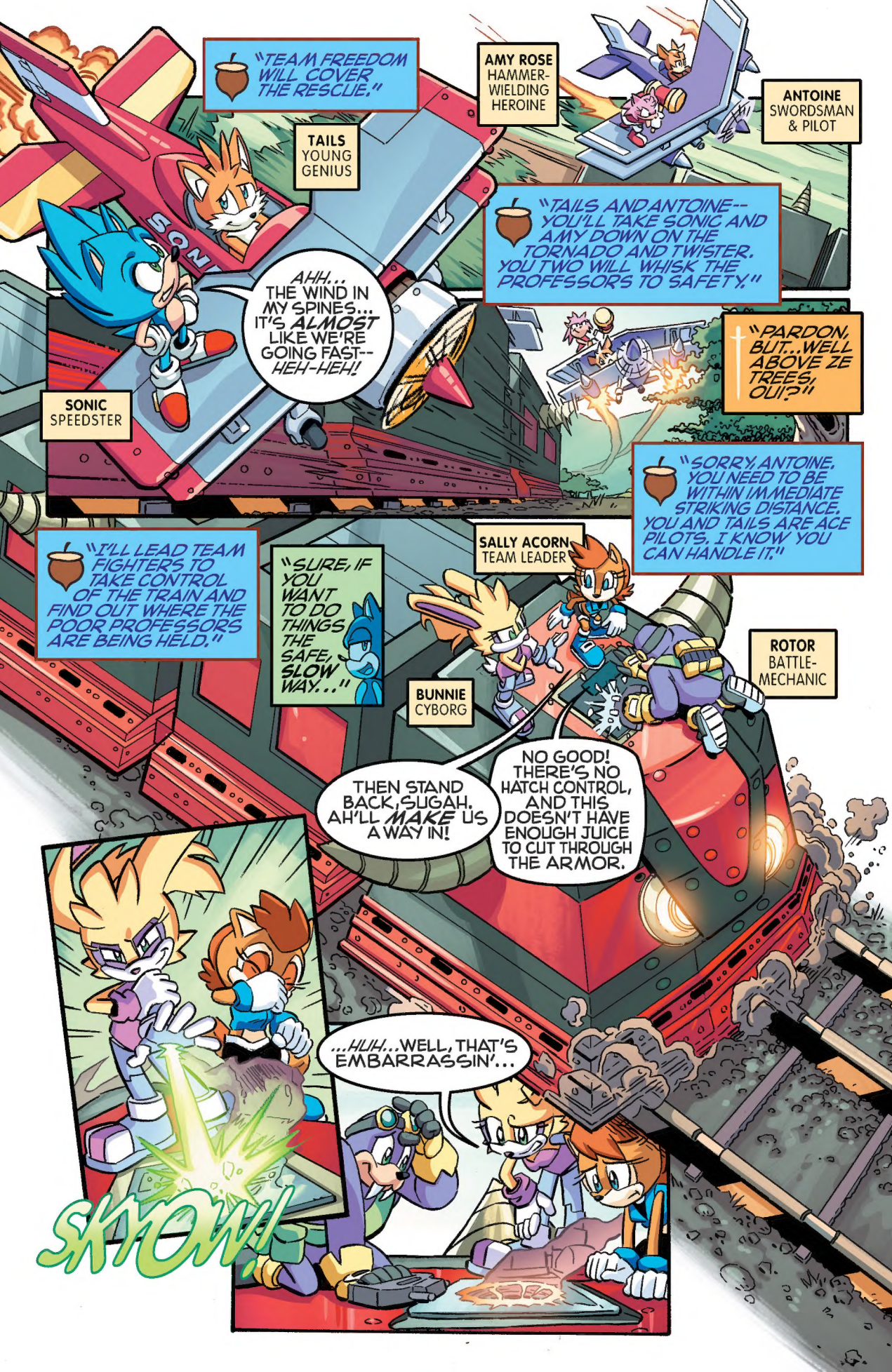
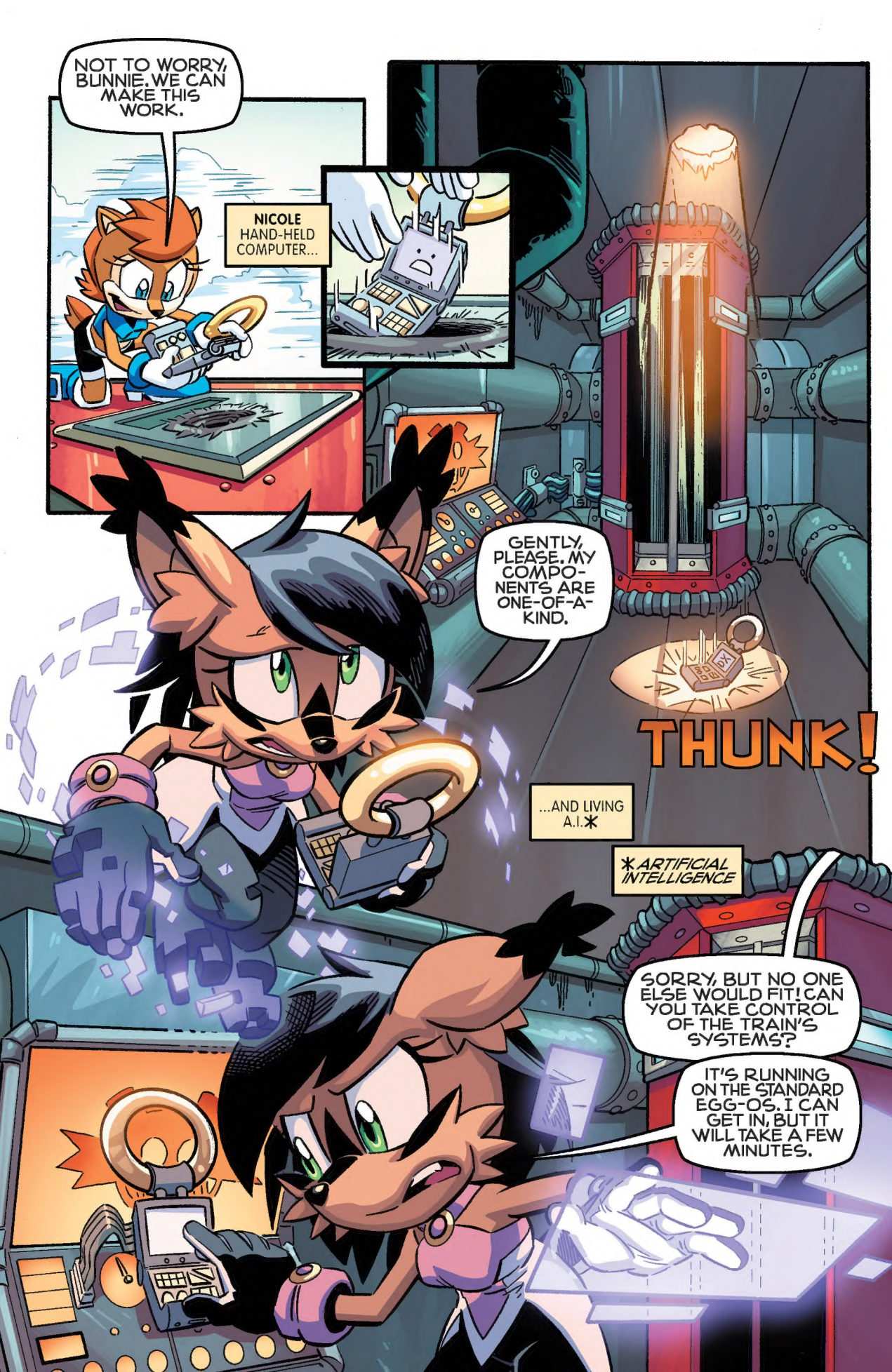
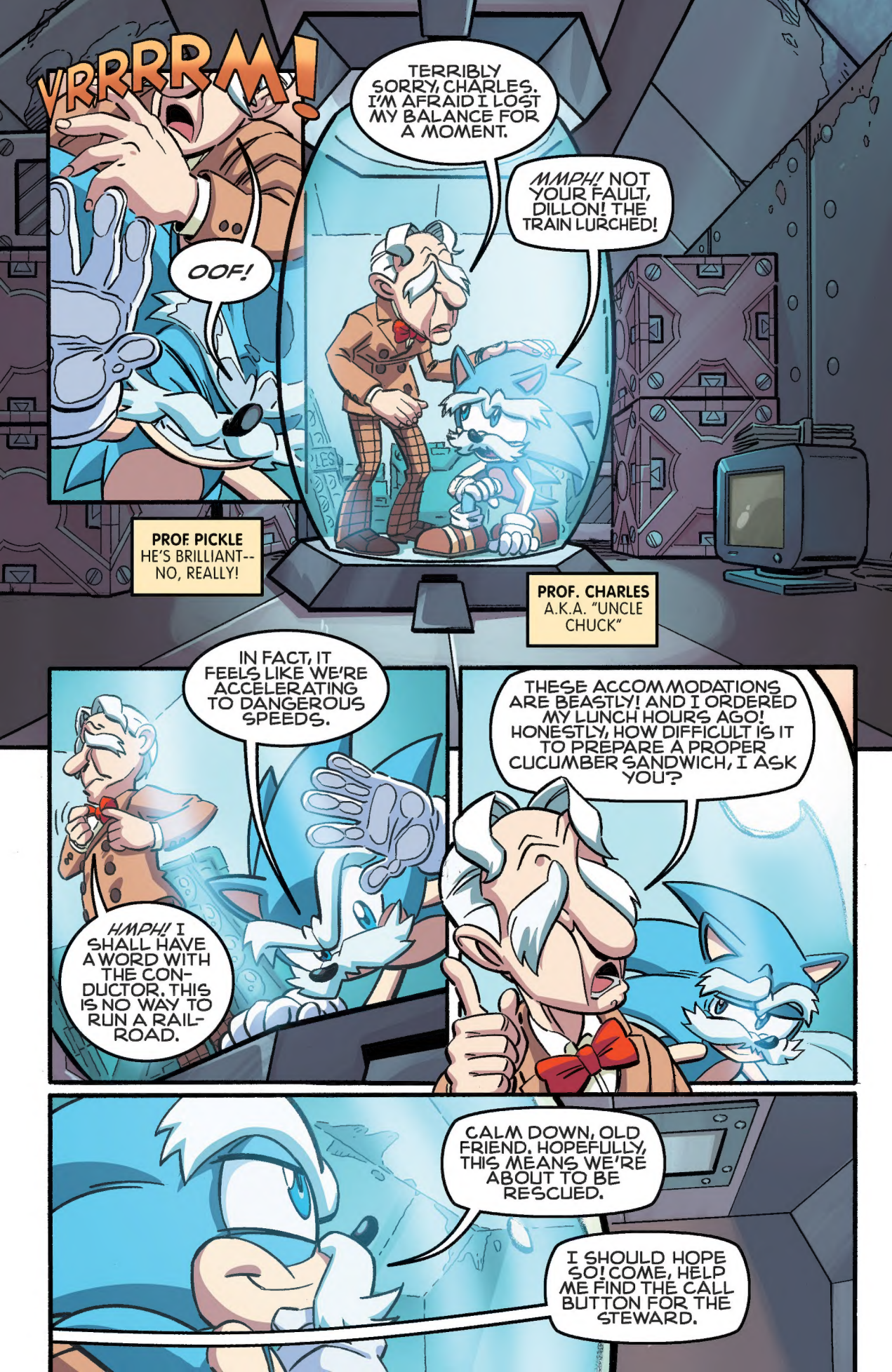

"TEAM FREEDOM WILL COVER THE RESCUE."
TAILS YOUNG GENIUS
AMY ROSE HAMMER-WIELDING HEROINE
ANTOINE SWORDSMAN & PILOT
"TAILS AND ANTOINE-- YOU'LL TAKE SONIC AND AMY DOWN ON THE TORNADO AND TWISTER. YOU TWO WILL WHISK THE PROFESSORS TO SAFETY."
AHH... THE WIND IN MY SPINES... IT'S ALMOST LIKE WE'RE GOING FAST-- HEH-HEH!
SONIC SPEEDSTER
"PARDON, BUT...WELL ABOVE ZE TREES, OUI?"
"SORRY, ANTOINE, YOU NEED TO BE WITHIN IMMEDIATE STRIKING DISTANCE. YOU AND TAILS ARE ACE PILOTS. I KNOW YOU CAN HANDLE IT."
"I'LL LEAD TEAM FIGHTERS TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE TRAIN AND FIND OUT WHERE THE POOR PROFESSORS ARE BEING HELD."
"SURE, IF YOU WANT TO DO THINGS THE SAFE, SLOW WAY..."
SALLY ACORN TEAM LEADER
ROTOR BATTLE-MECHANIC
BUNNIE CYBORG
THEN STAND BACK, SUGAH. AH'LL MAKE US A WAY IN!
NO GOOD! THERE'S NO HATCH CONTROL, AND THIS DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH JUICE TO CUT THROUGH THE ARMOR.
...HUH...WELL, THAT'S EMBARRASSIN'...
SKROW!

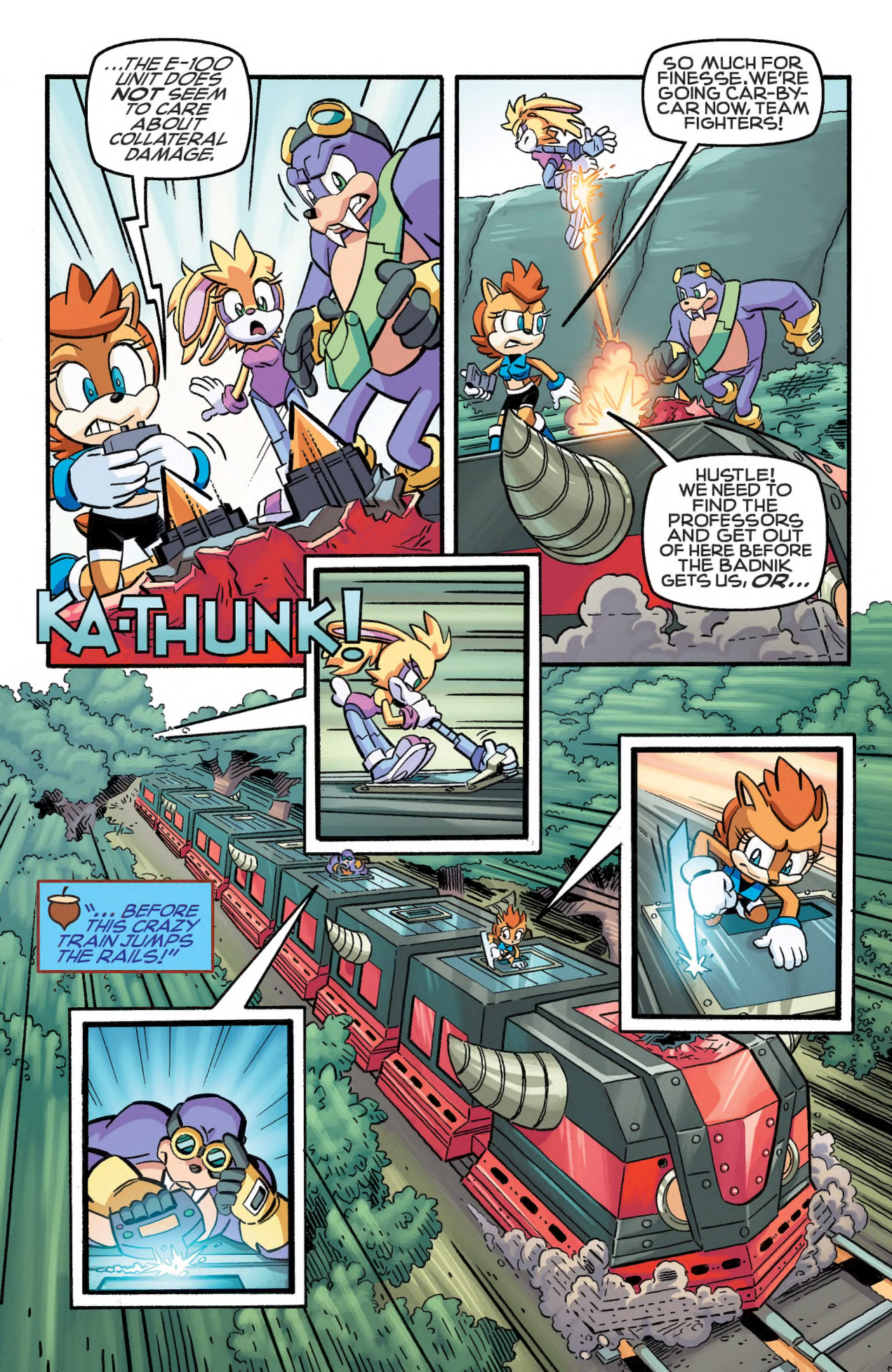

NOT TO WORRY, BUNNIE. WE CAN MAKE THIS WORK.
NICOLE HAND-HELD COMPUTER...
GENTLY, PLEASE. MY COMPONENTS ARE ONE-OF-A-KIND.
THUNK!
...AND LIVING A.I.*
*ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
SORRY, BUT NO ONE ELSE WOULD FIT! CAN YOU TAKE CONTROL OF THE TRAIN'S SYSTEMS?
IT'S RUNNING ON THE STANDARD EGG-OS. I CAN GET IN, BUT IT WILL TAKE A FEW MINUTES.

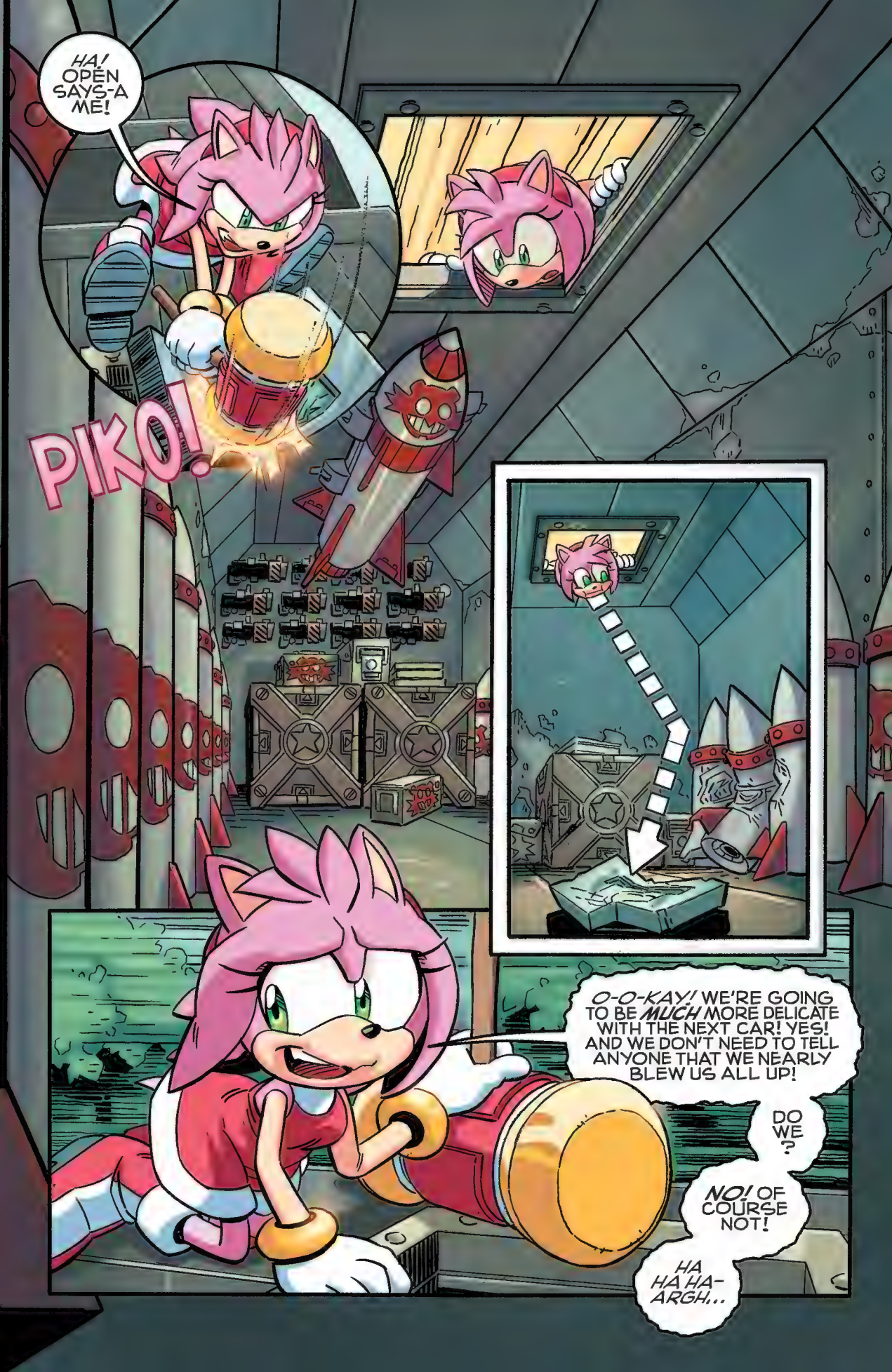
HURRY. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS THING HAS FOR DEFENSES.
I THINK I HAVE AN IDEA.
106
E-106 ETA HORDE COMMANDER
PSSST
I--I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE ROGUE BADNIKS ON OUR SIDE...?
KA-THUNK!
SMASH!

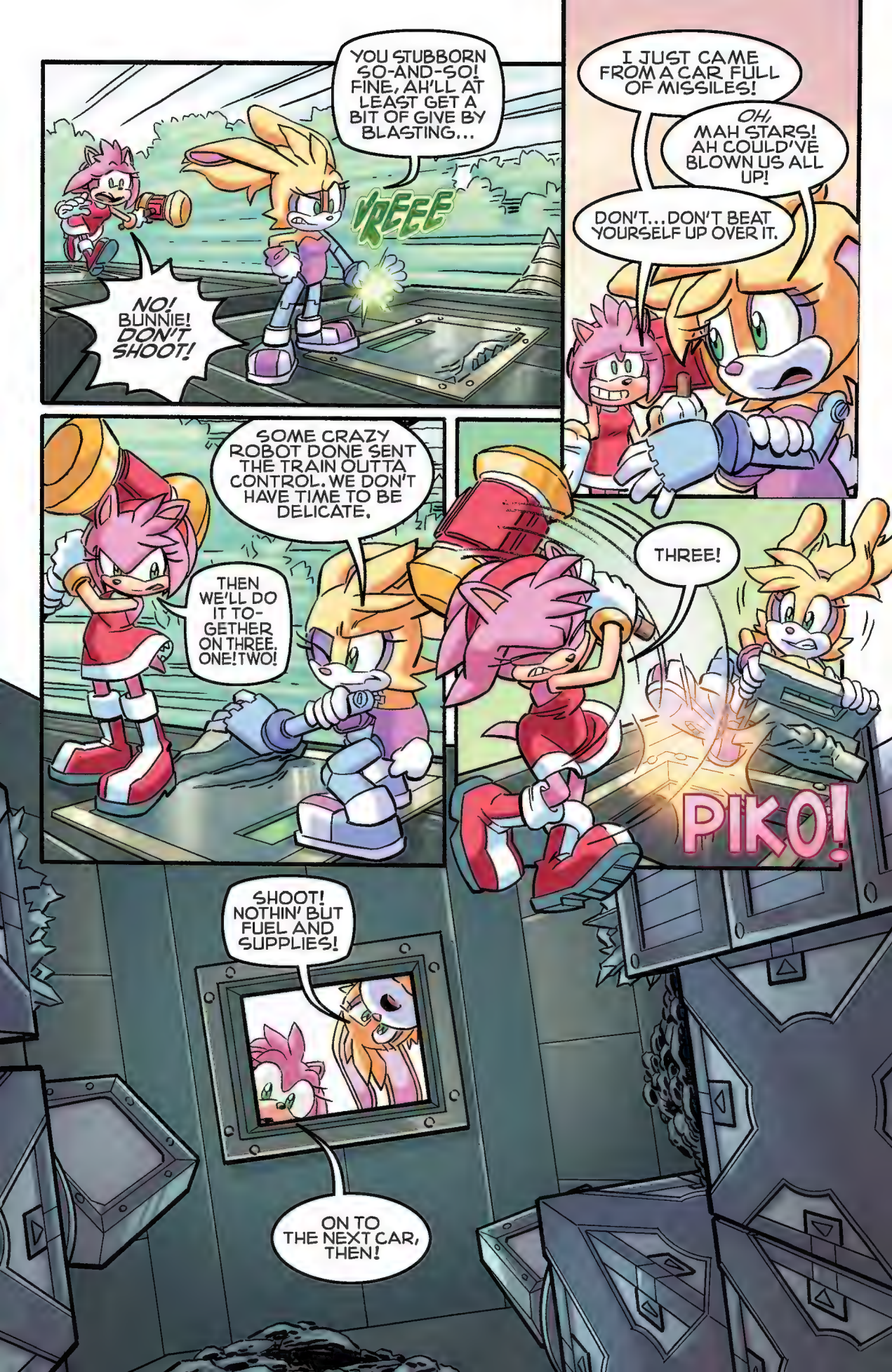
VRRRRM!
THE TRAIN'S ACCELERATING! FLY FASTER!
IT'S ALL I CAN BE DOING TO BE KEEPING US LEVEL!
AMY! SOMETHING'S HAPPENED! FORGET THE PLAN! WE'RE DOING THIS CAR-BY-CAR NOW!
YOU START FROM THIS END! I'LL RUN UP AHEAD!
YOU GOT IT!
RRRGH! OPEN! OPEN! OPEN!
PIKO! PIKO! PIKO!

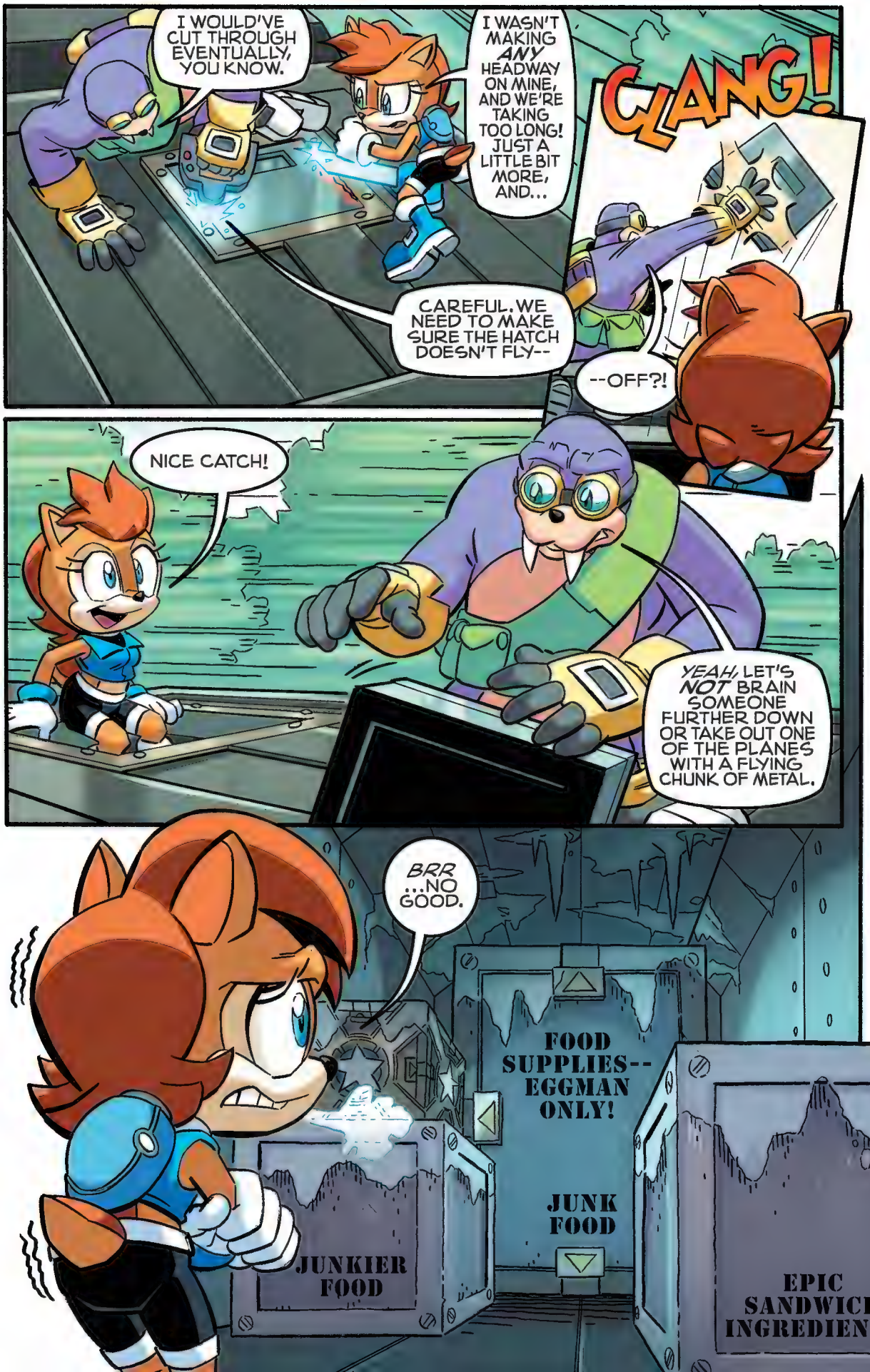

VRRRRM!
OOF!
TERRIBLY SORRY, CHARLES. I'M AFRAID I LOST MY BALANCE FOR A MOMENT.
MMPH! NOT YOUR FAULT, DILLON! THE TRAIN LURCHED!
PROF. PICKLE HE'S BRILLIANT-- NO, REALLY!
PROF. CHARLES A.K.A. "UNCLE CHUCK"
IN FACT, IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE ACCELERATING TO DANGEROUS SPEEDS.
HMPH! I SHALL HAVE A WORD WITH THE CON-DUCTOR. THIS IS NO WAY TO RUN A RAIL-ROAD.
THESE ACCOMMODATIONS ARE BEASTLY! AND I ORDERED MY LUNCH HOURS AGO! HONESTLY, HOW DIFFICULT IS IT TO PREPARE A PROPER CUCUMBER SANDWICH, I ASK YOU?
CALM DOWN, OLD FRIEND. HOPEFULLY, THIS MEANS WE'RE ABOUT TO BE RESCUED.
I SHOULD HOPE SO! COME, HELP ME FIND THE CALL BUTTON FOR THE STEWARD.

KA-THUNK!
GIVE ME YOUR HAND!
E-100 UNIT!
I'M UNDER ATTACK!
GET ME OUT OF HERE!
PSSST
PSSST
TAKE ME!
KA-THUNK!
THANK YOU, SALLY.
ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M FINE--BUT I'M AFRAID THE TRAIN'S CONTROLS ARE DESTROYED. HOWEVER --I CAN CONFIRM THE PROFESSORS ARE ABOARD THE TRAIN. ALSO, WHILE THE DOORS BETWEEN CARS ARE SEALED, I SAW THAT THE INDIVIDUAL CEILING HATCHES ARE LESS ARMORED.
SO THERE'S NO WAY TO STOP THE TRAIN OR QUICKLY SEARCH THE CARS.
NO, AND FURTHER-MORE...


...THE E-100 UNIT DOES NOT SEEM TO CARE ABOUT COLLATERAL DAMAGE.
SO MUCH FOR FINESSE. WE'RE GOING CAR-BY-CAR NOW, TEAM FIGHTERS!
HUSTLE! WE NEED TO FIND THE PROFESSORS AND GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE BADNIK GETS US, OR...
KA-THUNK!
"... BEFORE THIS CRAZY TRAIN JUMPS THE RAILS!"

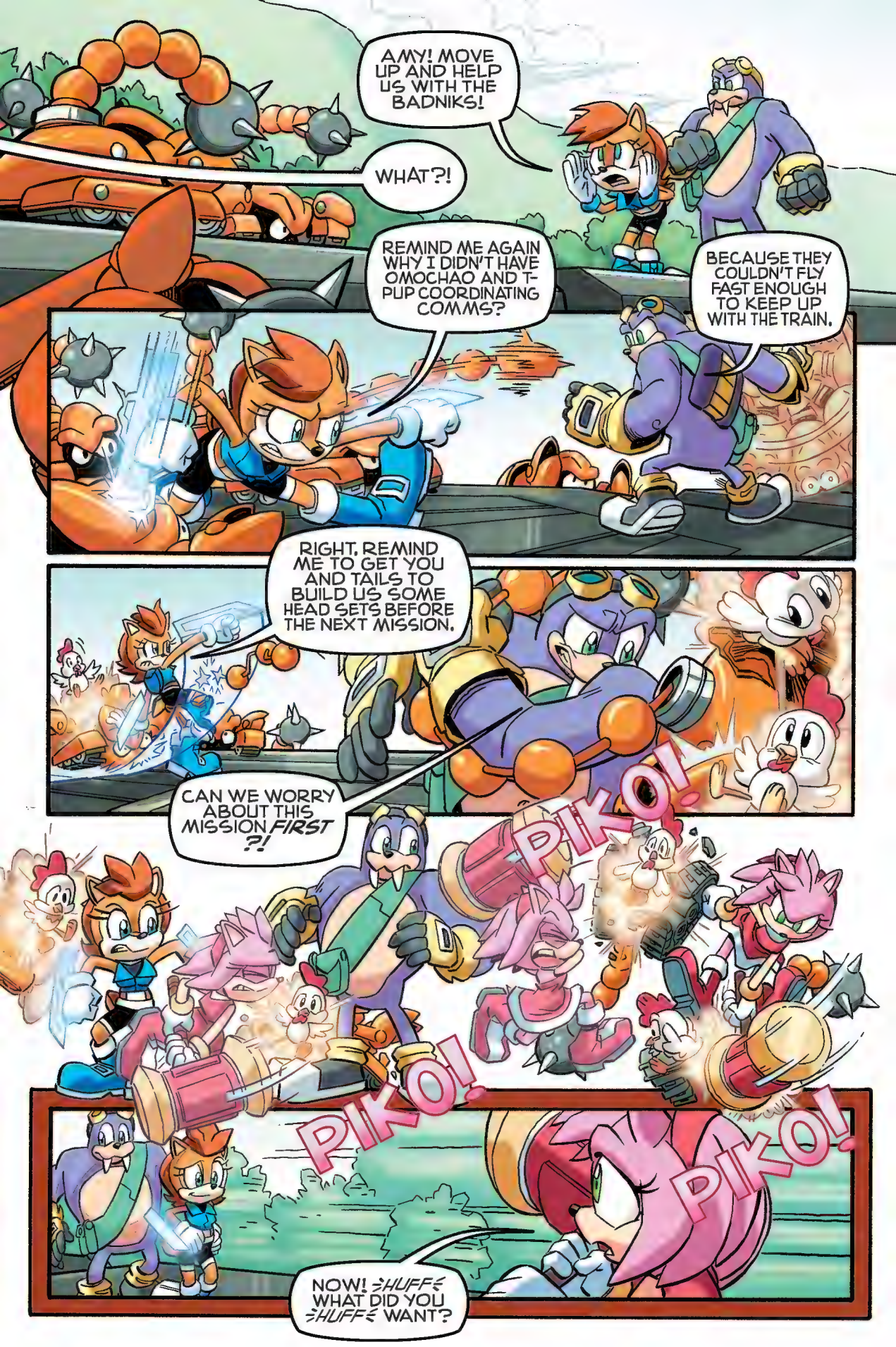

HA! OPEN SAYS-A ME!
PIKO!
O-O-KAY! WE'RE GOING TO BE MUCH MORE DELICATE WITH THE NEXT CAR! YES! AND WE DON'T NEED TO TELL ANYONE THAT WE NEARLY BLEW US ALL UP!
DO WE ?
NO! OF COURSE NOT!
HA HA HA- ARGH...


YOU STUBBORN SO-AND-SO! FINE, AH'LL AT LEAST GET A BIT OF GIVE BY BLASTING...
VREEE
NO! BUNNIE! DON'T SHOOT!
I JUST CAME FROM A CAR FULL OF MISSILES!
OH, MAH STARS! AH COULD'VE BLOWN US ALL UP!
DON'T... DON'T BEAT YOURSELF UP OVER IT.
SOME CRAZY ROBOT DONE SENT THE TRAIN OUTTA CONTROL. WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE DELICATE.
THEN WE'LL DO IT TO-GETHER ON THREE. ONE! TWO!
THREE!
PIKO!
SHOOT! NOTHIN' BUT FUEL AND SUPPLIES!
ON TO THE NEXT CAR, THEN!

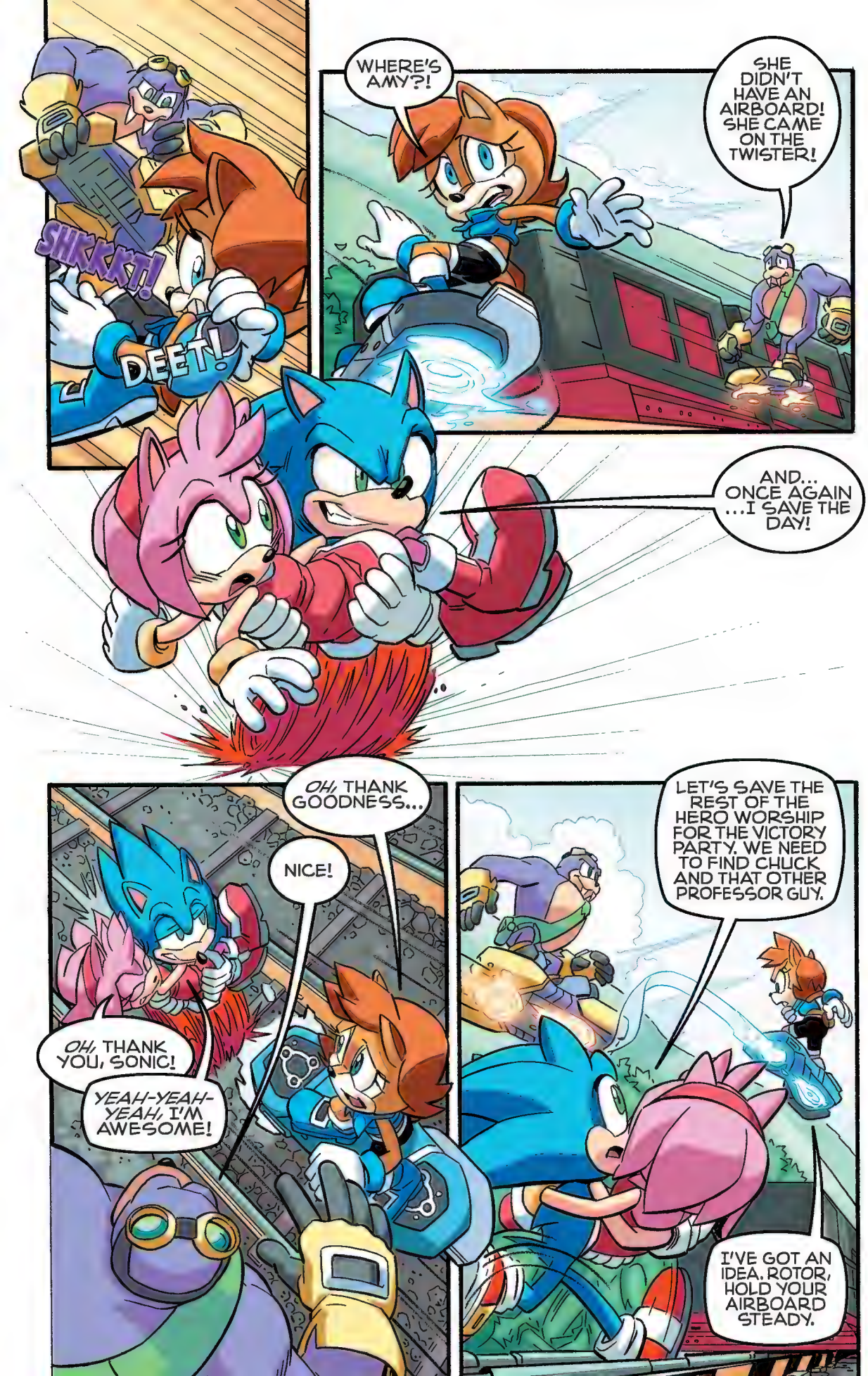

I WOULD'VE CUT THROUGH EVENTUALLY, YOU KNOW.
I WASN'T MAKING ANY HEADWAY ON MINE, AND WE'RE TAKING TOO LONG! JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE, AND...
CLANG!
CAREFUL. WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THE HATCH DOESN'T FLY--
--OFF?!
NICE CATCH!
YEAH, LET'S NOT BRAIN SOMEONE FURTHER DOWN OR TAKE OUT ONE OF THE PLANES WITH A FLYING CHUNK OF METAL.
BRR ...NO GOOD.
FOOD SUPPLIES-- EGGMAN ONLY!
JUNK FOOD
JUNKIER FOOD
EPIC SANDWICH INGREDIENT

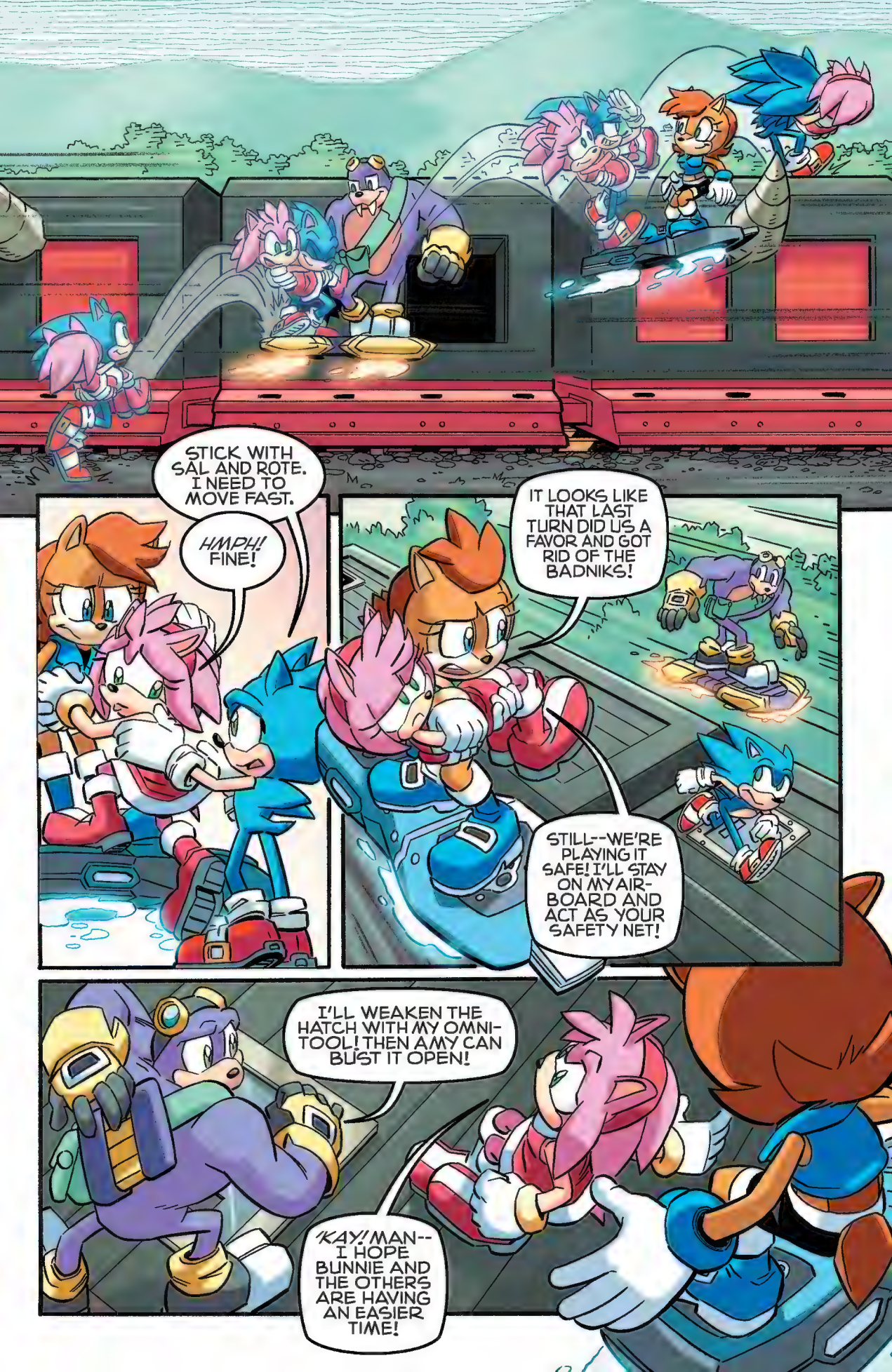
SMASHIN' INTO RANDOM CARS! SMASHIN' INTO RANDOM CARS!
--IN THE WRONG CAR.
I'VE GOT A GOOD FEELING ABOUT THIS ONE! HOLD ON, CHUCK! I'M--
MY BAD! YOU GUYS CAN GO BACK TO SLEEP ...OR STAND BY... OR WHATEVER IT IS BADNIKS DO. I KNOW THE WAY OUT, SO I'LL JUST--

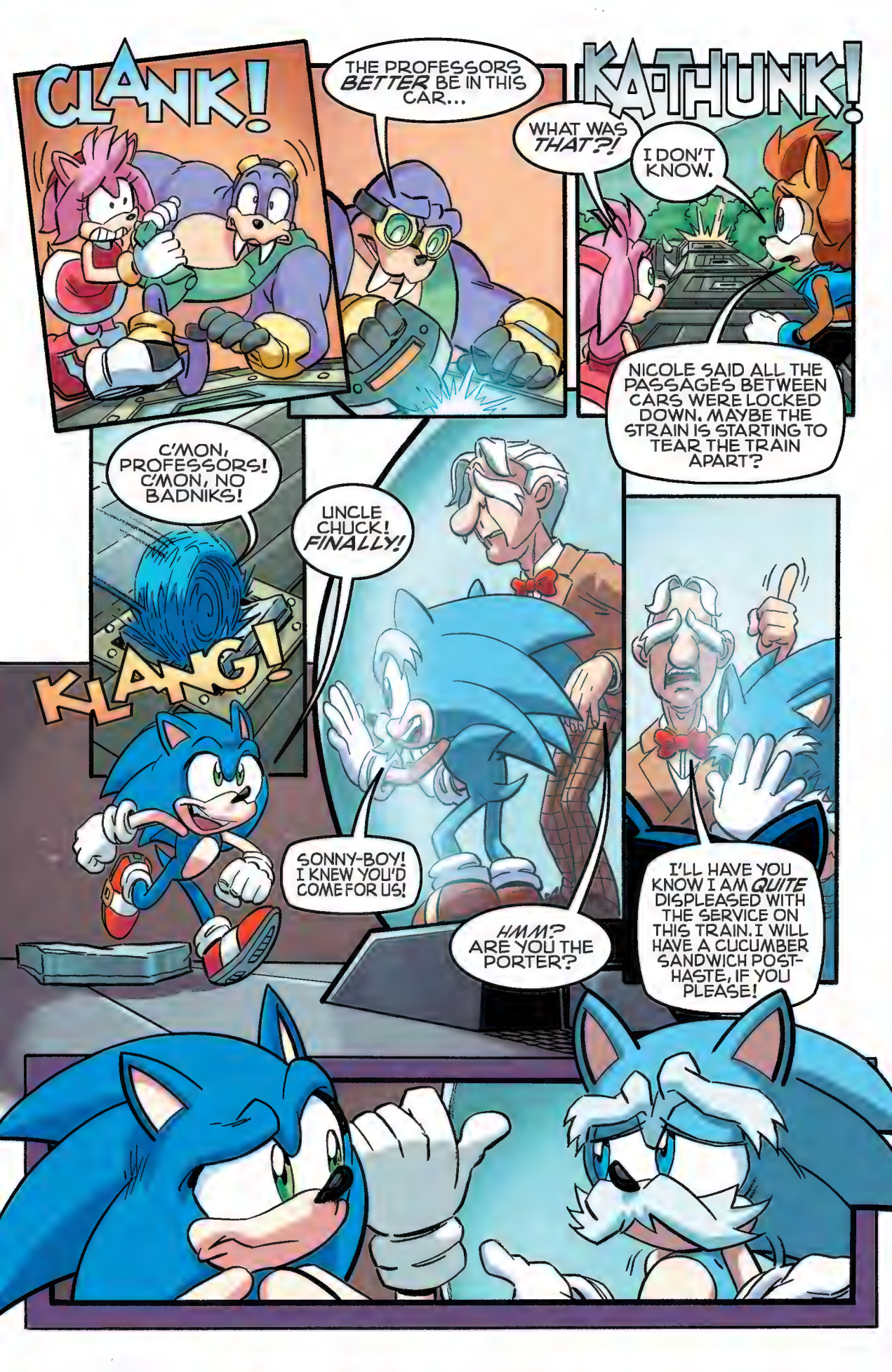
OH, CRUD!
SONIC
ASCEND! EVASIVE MANEUVERS!
GYEEP!
OH, GEEZ... REALLY?
BUNNIE! HELP THE TORNADO AND TWISTER WITH AIR SUPPORT!
AH'M ON MY WAY!

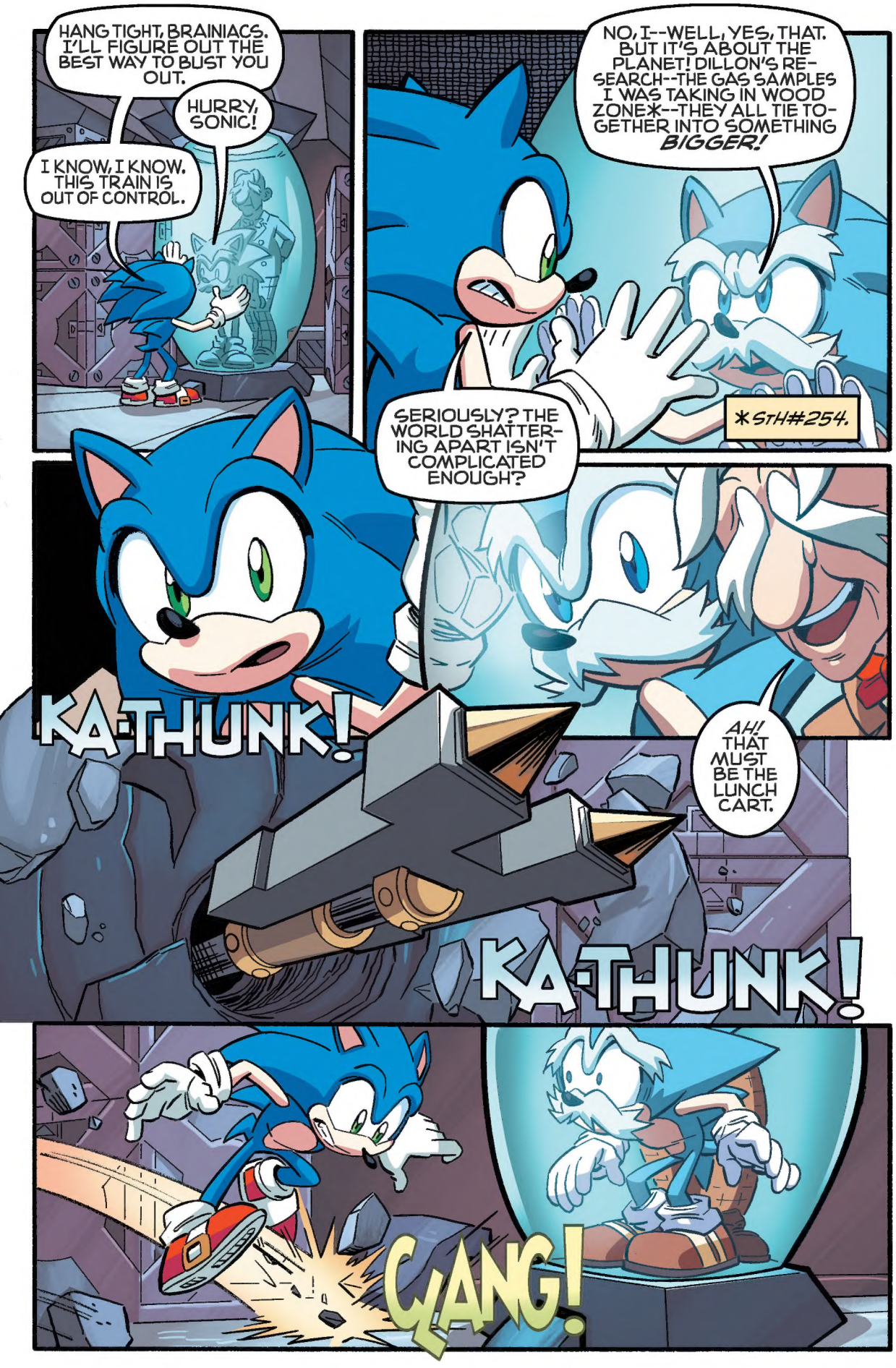

AMY! MOVE UP AND HELP US WITH THE BADNIKS!
WHAT?!
REMIND ME AGAIN WHY I DIDN'T HAVE OMOCHAO AND T-PUP COORDINATING COMMS?
BECAUSE THEY COULDN'T FLY FAST ENOUGH TO KEEP UP WITH THE TRAIN.
RIGHT. REMIND ME TO GET YOU AND TAILS TO BUILD US SOME HEAD SETS BEFORE THE NEXT MISSION.
CAN WE WORRY ABOUT THIS MISSION *FIRST* ?!
PIKO!
PIKO!
PIKO!
NOW! *HUFF* WHAT DID YOU *HUFF* WANT?

BOOM!
VREEE
BOOM!
BOOM! BOOM!
HEH-HEH-WHEW! YOU SHOULD'VE JUST LET ME WALK AWAY. WELL, NOT "WALK." I DON'T WALK. BUT YOU KNOW WHAT I--
SCREEEECH!
SCREEEECH!


SHKKKT!
DEET!
WHERE'S AMY?!
SHE DIDN'T HAVE AN AIRBOARD! SHE CAME ON THE TWISTER!
AND... ONCE AGAIN ...I SAVE THE DAY!
OH, THANK GOODNESS...
NICE!
OH, THANK YOU, SONIC!
YEAH-YEAH-YEAH, I'M AWESOME!
LET'S SAVE THE REST OF THE HERO WORSHIP FOR THE VICTORY PARTY. WE NEED TO FIND CHUCK AND THAT OTHER PROFESSOR GUY.
I'VE GOT AN IDEA. ROTOR, HOLD YOUR AIRBOARD STEADY.


STICK WITH SAL AND ROTE. I NEED TO MOVE FAST.
HMPH! FINE!
IT LOOKS LIKE THAT LAST TURN DID US A FAVOR AND GOT RID OF THE BADNIKS!
STILL--WE'RE PLAYING IT SAFE! I'LL STAY ON MY AIR-BOARD AND ACT AS YOUR SAFETY NET!
I'LL WEAKEN THE HATCH WITH MY OMNI-TOOL! THEN AMY CAN BUST IT OPEN!
KAY! MAN-- I HOPE BUNNIE AND THE OTHERS ARE HAVING AN EASIER TIME!


CLANK!
THE PROFESSORS BETTER BE IN THIS CAR...
KA-THUNK!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
I DON'T KNOW.
NICOLE SAID ALL THE PASSAGES BETWEEN CARS WERE LOCKED DOWN. MAYBE THE STRAIN IS STARTING TO TEAR THE TRAIN APART?
C'MON, PROFESSORS! C'MON, NO BADNIKS!
KLANG!
UNCLE CHUCK! FINALLY!
SONNY-BOY! I KNEW YOU'D COME FOR US!
HMM? ARE YOU THE PORTER?
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I AM QUITE DISPLEASED WITH THE SERVICE ON THIS TRAIN. I WILL HAVE A CUCUMBER SANDWICH POST-HASTE, IF YOU PLEASE!


HANG TIGHT, BRAINIACS. I'LL FIGURE OUT THE BEST WAY TO BUST YOU OUT.
HURRY, SONIC!
I KNOW, I KNOW. THIS TRAIN IS OUT OF CONTROL.
NO, I--WELL, YES, THAT. BUT IT'S ABOUT THE PLANET! DILLON'S RESEARCH--THE GAS SAMPLES I WAS TAKING IN WOOD ZONE*--THEY ALL TIE TOGETHER INTO SOMETHING BIGGER!
*STH#254.
SERIOUSLY? THE WORLD SHATTERING APART ISN'T COMPLICATED ENOUGH?
KA-THUNK!
AH! THAT MUST BE THE LUNCH CART.
KA-THUNK!
CLANG!

GONNA HAVE TO PUT THAT LUNCH ORDER ON HOLD, PROFESSOR.
NEXT TIME--
SONIC VS. E-106 ETA
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SONIC-GRAMS

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Dear 'Sonic Grams,'
Hi everyone! I'll have the usual!

One of our regulars I see!

I wanted to say that I am currently loving the new comic universe, and I love all the new designs!

Happy to hear it! We love 'em too!

Everything is getting so exciting that I am almost literally on the edge of my seat waiting for the next comic!! Also I loved how in 256 Sally and Amy teamed up to fight Metal Sonic. I love both Sally and Amy, so every time I see them working together it makes me smile! I'd love to see them interacting more!

Your wishes will be granted now that the Freedom Fighters have reassembled!

I noticed in 254 that when the ground cracked open and Sonic inhaled the purple gasses, he seemed to be making growling noises. And then Uncle Chuck mentioned going to Spagonia. Could this possibly mean that we will be seeing the Werehog soon?

...Maayyyybbeeee...

And finally, I know someone already asked this, but can you guys please bring in Honey the Cat? She would make such an awesome edition to the team!

I hope you all have a great day!
Sincerely,
Brittney N. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

P.S. Can you guys tell Amy and Sally I said "Hi"?

I think she has a fighting chance! Thanks for the letter, Brittney!

See y'all next month!

COLLECTOR COVER SPOTLIGHT

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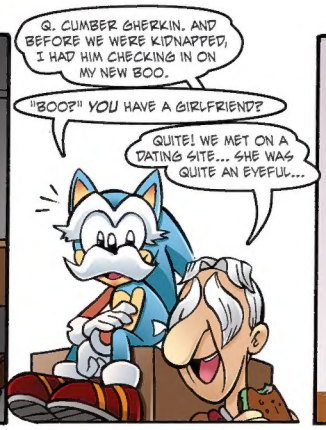

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